

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 14, 2022

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy,

We ask you to unequivocally condemn the antisemitic remarks made by former President Donald Trump at the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) on November 13th and on his social media platform, Truth Social, on October 16th. The former President's rhetoric in this post and in his recent speech threatens the Jewish community by perpetuating antisemitic tropes and should be denounced in the strongest possible terms.

On November 13th in New York, Trump spoke at a ZOA event where he criticized Jewish Americans who are against him despite his support for Israel. His remarks included this concerning statement:

"But you do have people in this country that happen to be Jewish that are not doing the right thing for Israel. Too many."

This statement invokes the same antisemitic trope that he referenced on October 16th in a post to his over four million followers on Truth Social. His post read:

"No President has done more for Israel than I have. Somewhat surprisingly, however, our wonderful Evangelicals are far more appreciative of this than the people of the Jewish faith, especially those living in the U.S. Those living in Israel, though, are a different story – Highest approval rating in the World, could easily be P.M.! U.S. Jews have to get their act together and appreciate what they have in Israel – Before it is too late!"

Trump's comments play into the antisemitic trope that Jewish Americans have dual loyalties to the U.S. and to Israel. This is not the first time Trump has invoked this harmful trope. At a White House Hanukkah party in 2018, Trump told a group of Jewish Americans that his Vice President and second lady "love your country. And they love this country."<sup>1</sup> At a Republican Jewish

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-praises-israel-as-your-country-to-american-jews/>

Coalition event in 2019, he referred to Benjamin Netanyahu as “your prime minister” and regularly referred to his ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, as “your ambassador” while talking to Jewish Americans. Friedman was the only ambassador that Trump discussed in this manner.<sup>2</sup> Trump’s comments towards Jewish Americans imply that they are different than their fellow Americans. It makes them “other” and could lead to accusations that they have secret loyalty to Israel rather than the U.S.

These comments come at a time when the Jewish community is already facing a dangerous rise in antisemitism. In 2018, the deadliest attack against the American Jewish community took place at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh leaving 11 dead. Violent attacks on other synagogues and at Jewish gatherings have occurred across the country since, and antisemitic incidents hit a record high in 2021. According to the Anti-Defamation League’s annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, there were 2,717 incidents in 2021 – an average of more than 7 incidents per day - a 34 percent rise from the year before.<sup>3</sup> The former President’s espousal of dual loyalty accusations only strengthens one of the key pillars of modern-day antisemitism which threatened Jewish communities for centuries.

Hate begets hate, and antisemitism breeds hate against other groups -- threatening all of our communities. We ask that you condemn these dangerous comments made by the former President and stand in solidarity with your Jewish friends, family and constituents.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter,

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/10/17/trump-history-antisemitic-tropes/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/antisemitic-incidents-hit-a-record-high-in-2021-whats-behind-the-rise-in-hate>



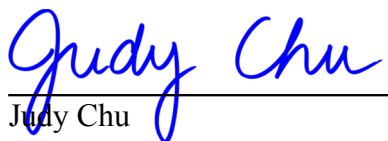
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



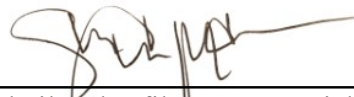
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Phillips', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress